

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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P 242331Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9744

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 0643

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XM, MX

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, MEXICO

REF: A. MEXICO 589; B. MEXICO 593

1. EMBOFF CONSULTED TODAY WITH AMBASSADOR MANUEL TELLO, WHO WILL BE SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE, CONCERNING PLANNING FOR MEETING. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT STAFF HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN NEGLIGENT IN FAILING TO PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH SCHEDULE REPORTED REF B. TELLO GAVE ASSURANCES EMBASSY WOULD BE PROVIDED INFORMATION IN FUTURE.

2. FOLLOWING CHANGES SHOULD BE NOTED IN SCHEDULED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (REF B):

A. THE FUNCTION PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 19 HAS BEEN CHANGED TO FEBRUARY 20, AND VICE VERSA.

B. THE RESTRICTION OF ATTENDANCE AT OPENING OF CONFERENCE TO DELEGATES ONLY HAS BEEN REMOVED. TELLO INDICATED THAT INAUGURATION, AT WHICH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WILL WELCOME DELEGATES, WILL BE ATTENDED BY SOME 1,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING ALL CABINET MEMBERS, ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (PRESUMABLY NOT ALL), FRIENDS OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, AND THE PRESS.

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3. GOM IS CONSIDERING SCENARIO IN WHICH PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND BRIEF RESPONSE BY LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER, TO BE SELECTED, WOULD BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH. THEY WOULD EXPECT THE SECRETARY TO RESPOND IN THIS ADDRESS TO THE EIGHT POINTS DEVELOPED IN BOGOTA. FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S ADDRESS, SPOKESMAN SELECTED BY LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD THEN RESPOND TO OR COMMENT ON INDIVIDUAL POINTS, EXCLUDING NO. 8 (ON PANORAMA OF LA-US RELATIONS). GOM, HOWEVER, REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS SUGGESTED SCENARIO, PARTICULARLY WHETHER SECRETARY WISHES TO MAKE ADDRESS IN PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT AND OTHERS INDICATED ABOVE ATTENDING THIS PUBLIC SESSION, OR WHETHER HE WOULD PREFER TO ADDRESS THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN A MORE PRIVATE SETTING FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT, CABINET AND OTHERS.

4. TELLO SAID FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA DOES NOT PLAN TO SPEAK AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE CONFERENCE.

5. GOM IS CANVASSING LATIN AMERICAN CHANCERIES ON PERUVIAN PROPOSAL FOR TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETING FEBRUARY 12-15, WHICH WOULD HAVE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING PRESENTATION OF ISSUES BY LATIN AMERICANS TO SECRETARY. RESPONSE THUS FAR FROM LA GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN EIGHT IN FAVOR AND TWO UNCERTAIN. TELLO SAID WHEN FIFTEEN FAVORABLE RESPONSES RECEIVED (AND HE SEEMED CONFIDENT THEY WOULD BE) A MEETING OF EXPERTS WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 12 TO CONVENE IN MEXICO CITY.

6. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF SECRETARY'S PREFERENCE REGARDING FORMAT OF OPENING SESSION, AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER HE WISHES TO "RESPOND" TO THE EIGHT POINTS OF BOGOTA AT OUTSET. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT AS WELL AS SECRETARY'S PREFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO OPEN VERSUS CLOSED SETTING FOR HIS ADDRESS. TELLO SUGGESTED SUCH DETAILS MIGHT BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA IF SECRETARY VISITS MEXICO BEFORE CONFERENCE. SINCE GOM, HOWEVER, IS OBVIOUSLY IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ON FORMAT AS WELL AS SUBSTANCE OF

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THE CONFERENCE, IT WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE TO INFORM MEXICANS AS SOON AS FEASIBLE IF WE HAVE STRONG OBJECTIONS TO SCENARIO SKETCHED ABOVE.

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